

NOT A METRO

Centre says that it cannot yet grant 'Metro' status to Bengaluru and it has something to do with Income Tax Rules



PAGE 3

WILD SIDE

Environment group expresses concerns over State Board of Wildlife, requests Governor to revoke recent appointments



PAGE 6

Ground-level ozone is highly reactive gas with serious health implications. As per air quality data, Bengaluru has recorded 59 days of this gas breaching safe limit levels

FORBIDDEN OZONE

22 nights recorded with unsafe levels too

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

This year so far, Bengaluru has recorded 59 days of ground-level ozone breaching the safe limits, according to a new analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi.

The assessment was conducted on air quality data from 14 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS) across the city. The results of the assessment also underline that BTM Layout is the hotspot for ground-level ozone pollution in the city.

An increase in ground-level ozone above prescribed standards has been calculated as a daily maximum eight-hour average crossing the standard of 100µg/m3.

Ozone levels also remained elevated in the city hours after sunset. Bengaluru has recorded 22 nights with higher-than-safe ground-level ozone values. Night-time ozone has been considered when hourly concentration has exceeded the level of 100 µg/m3 between 10 pm and 2 am at any station.

Consequences

Experts say ground-level ozone is a highly reactive gas and has serious health consequences.



“Those with respiratory conditions, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease – as well as children with premature lungs and older adults – are at serious risk

— Anumita Roychowdhury, CSE

“Those with respiratory conditions, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease – as well as children with premature lungs and older adults – are at serious risk. This can inflame and damage airways, make lungs susceptible to infection, aggravate asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis, and increase the frequency of asthma attacks leading to increased hospitalisation,” said Anumita Roychowdhury, executive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Info of site on outdated website

When KG Layout site allottees asked officials about progress of work, they were told to check website that shows data only till April this year



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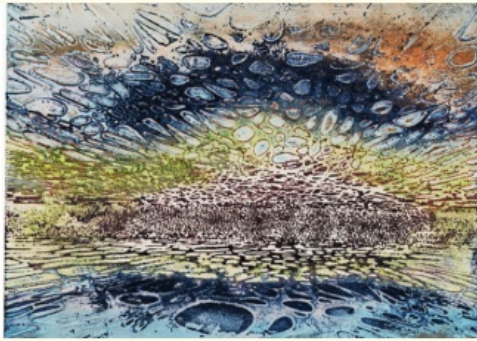
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Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is supposed to keep its site allottees in the loop on the progress of developmental work at the layouts being developed by it. Usually the allottees are desperate to know when they can construct their dream homes at such layouts where developmental works are progressing at a snail's pace. But the officials have shown no mercy and are often too tight-lipped about progress of work and funnily direct those who ask to a website that has not been updated.

The Executive Engineer responsible for providing information on the progress of work is not only reluctant to provide the data sought by Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum president, but also directed him to the website. The executive engineer advised him to get the information from bda.karnataka.gov.in. The BDA engineers have not bothered to upload any data on the progress of work after April 2024 on the website. So to be told on July 26 to look at the site in the RTI

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Art exhibit

Explore the art exhibition that celebrates the centenary year of printmaker, sculptor, and teacher Krishna Reddy: 'Rhyme Unbroken: Krishna Reddy the Artist and Perpetual Student'. As an internationally acclaimed artist, Reddy received the Padma Shri and Kala Ratna awards for his contributions to the modernist movement and intaglio printmaking. His works reflect lifelong learning, curiosity, and themes such as nature studies and figurative bodies. **Where:** Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), Ashok Nagar; **Date:** August 10 onwards



02 Traditional music

Experience the rich tapestry of Shahjahanpur Gharana of Sarod, developed across erstwhile Awadh, undivided Bengal, and Bihar, incorporating compositions of marching tunes, the lyricism of thumri, the staccato structure of a Rabab composition, and the sombreness of Dhrupad. The Gharana demonstration will also showcase compositions of Pandit Radhika Mohan Maitra. Sarod exponent Dr Chandrima Majumdar, accompanied on the tabla by Kartik Bhat, will perform select compositions from the Shahjahanpur Gharana. **Where:** Performance Theatre, Indian Music Experience Museum **When:** August 10, 6 pm

03 Listen on

Be a part of an informative session with "Due Gratitude: Invisible Becomes Visible," by Komal Pande, Deputy Curator, National



Museum, New Delhi. The National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru (Ministry of Culture, Government of India) invites all to the talk in conjunction with the ongoing exhibition, 'Nandalal Bose (1882-1966) Haripura Panels.' **Where:** National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; **When:** August 10, 5 pm



Magnificent blooms

More than 1.75 lakh special flowers and foliage plants will be exhibited during the Independence Day Flower Show at Lalbagh. The floral

replica of the parliament house, made from 3.6 lakh roses and 2.4 lakh chrysanthemums, will be the centrepiece inside the glass house. A 12-foot statue of Dr BR Ambedkar will be unveiled on a 6-foot-tall pedestal. The show will have floral models of his birthplace, his parents, and other figures, as well as an exhibition depicting his works and achievements

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Black I-Day warning: Schools cry for justice

Private schools threaten to observe 'black' Independence Day over ongoing issues, stress need for freedom in education sector

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Pprivate schools have warned that they will intensify their protest against the state government by observing Independence Day as "Black Day" in light of the irregularities in the education department. The heads of educational institutions and teachers will wear black bands to mark the occasion and draw attention to their plight on August 15, said D Shashi Kumar, general secretary of the Karnataka Private School Managements, Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff Coordination Committee (KPMTCC).

For the past five years, the education department has issued daily orders that disregard established rules, resulting in discrimination and bias and violating several court orders, said Kumar. "Moreover, other departments, including Fire Safety, Revenue, the Child Rights Commission, and the police, have been accused of harassment and demanding bribes for documents that are reportedly impossible to provide. Despite complaints to the previous government, the education department, the prime minister, and the chief minis-

ter, no resolution was found, prompting institutions to seek legal recourse. The Karnataka High Court quashed several government circulars, questioning why similar rules weren't applied to government-run schools, and ordered the education department to present such orders in court," he said.

Why 'Black Day'?

Kumar alleged that 20 months later, the education department is appealing these quashed orders, allegedly to maintain corrupt practices related to the renewal of recognition. The institutions had hoped the new government would honour court orders and address these issues. However, despite multiple appeals to CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, no action has been taken to curb corruption or resolve the problems. "The current system has failed to provide solutions or stop corruption within the department. High-ranking officials lack understanding of court orders and practical challenges, leading to the implementation of nonsensical rules and software applications that hinder the recognition and renewal process for schools established before 2017-18. In protest, we have decided to celebrate "Black Inde-



File photo of teachers and private schools protesting for rights

ence Day," stressing the lack of freedom to operate quality education institutions in Karnataka," he added.

Documents dilemma

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Recognised Unaided Private Schools Association (KRUPA) has made various allegations. KRUPA president Lokesh Talikatte said, "For the past four years, the education department officials have been grappling with issues related to the renewal of recognition, imposing stringent new rules, and harassing private aided and unaided schools and colleges. The circular for the 2024-25 renewal of recognition mandates the submission of 63 documents, causing widespread anxiety. Most schools cannot provide the land conversion document mentioned in the circular, as it is legally difficult for institutions that have been operating for decades to obtain land conversion

now. Additionally, these schools cannot procure building plans retroactively." He said that, being exempt from property tax, schools were unable to obtain a tax receipt, further complicating compliance. "The fire safety certificate requirement is discriminatory, being mandatory only for private schools and not for government schools and colleges, which is illegal. Furthermore, an NOC (No Objection Certificate) is required from the nearby police station."

Talikatte stated that this annual demand for ten to twenty documents forces private school owners to run from department to department. "This situation has led to massive corruption and has resulted in the closure of many private schools, doubling in the last four years. Therefore, we urgently request a meeting with senior officials to discuss this issue and find a suitable solution," he added.

Centre refuses to grant 'metro' status to Bengaluru

Long due demands of metro city status for House Rent Allowance tax exemptions are again on hold

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Despite Bengaluru's exponential growth in population and businesses, the Centre maintains that it cannot yet grant 'Metro' status to the city. Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary on Tuesday, explained that under Rule 2A of the Income-tax Rules, 1962, a distinction exists between the cities of Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, and Chennai, and other places regarding the special allowance for residential accommodation under section 10(13A) of the Income-tax Act, 1961. For the four designated metropolitan cities, 50% of the salary was considered for computing the exemption limits under section 10(13A). However, for other cities, including Bengaluru, this limit has been set at 40%.

Minister Chaudhary further clarified that there is no proposal to change this policy. "It has been the stated policy of the Government to rationalise tax rates and move away from exemptions and deductions. Therefore, designating more cities as metro cities and extending the benefit of a higher exemption limit on HRA to such cities contradicts the stated policy," he said.

For a long time, there have been demands to recognise Bengaluru as a Metropolitan City



Inclusion of Bengaluru would allow residents to claim 50% exemption on salary equivalent to HRA

for House Rent Allowance (HRA) tax exemptions under income tax laws. The inclusion of Bengaluru would allow residents to claim a 50% exemption on their salary equivalent to HRA, similar to the existing four designated Metropolitan Cities. This change would significantly benefit residents by reducing their taxable income and providing relief in an increasingly expensive housing market. However, the Centre's current stance remains firm. Despite Bengaluru's rapid urbanisation and its crucial role as an economic and technological hub, the government has chosen not to revise the tax exemption rules to include it as a metro city. The debate over Bengaluru's status highlights the ongoing tension between local growth dynamics and national fiscal policies. As Bengaluru continues to expand, the push for metro city recognition may gain

Reclassifying Bengaluru as a metro would acknowledge city's substantial growth

—Satish Jois, entrepreneur

further momentum, potentially prompting future reconsideration of tax policies to better accommodate the city's unique growth trajectory and economic contributions.

Sources said that classifying Bengaluru as a metro city for House Rent Allowance (HRA) purposes would offer notable advantages to both employees and employers, according to industrialists. The current system determines the percentage of HRA that can be claimed as tax-exempt based on whether a city is classified as a metro or non-metro.

Industrialists argue that by categorising Bengaluru as a metro, employees would be eligible for a higher percentage of tax-exempt HRA, resulting in significant tax savings.

"This change would be especially beneficial for those renting accommodations, as it would help them better cope with the high living costs. Moreover, employers would find it easier to attract and retain skilled employees in the competitive job market by offering more appealing job packages that include the revised HRA benefits. Reclassifying Bengaluru as a metro would also acknowledge the city's substantial growth and development, putting it on par with other major metropolitan areas. This adjustment would contribute to a more stable and satisfied employee base, benefiting both workers and businesses in the city," said Sathish Jois, an entrepreneur.

Three held for two-wheeler thefts, vehicles seized

Baiyappanahalli Police arrested three men for stealing two-wheelers and seized 19 vehicles worth Rs 24.85 lakh from them, based on a complaint from a Nagavara Palya Main Road resident. According to the complaint, the victim had parked their two-wheeler in front of their house, only to find it missing the next morning. The Baiyappanahalli Police registered the case and began the investigation by reviewing multiple Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and gathering crucial information. The police detained and interrogated three suspects near Benniganahalli bus stand, who confessed to the thefts. Further interrogation of the suspects helped the police recover 18 more stolen two-wheelers from various locations in Bengaluru. —BMB

Man arrested for selling marijuana near school

A man who hails from Odisha was arrested for selling marijuana near Poornaprajna School in Yelahanka recently. The Yelahanka Upanagar Police conducted a raid on the information received, the Yelahanka Suburban Police Station officials raided the area and arrested the suspect. They confiscated 2 kg of ganja, a mobile phone, a blog, and 10 covers from his possession, all valued at Rs 1 lakh. During interrogation, the accused revealed that he had brought the ganja from Odisha to Bengaluru to sell at a higher price. A case was registered against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and he was produced before the court. —BMB

Mobile phone thief admits he stole 8 phones

Last week, Marathahalli police arrested a man for stealing mobile phones from bus passengers, leading to the seizure of eight mobile phones worth Rs 2 lakh. The arrest followed a complaint lodged by a resident of a Paying Guest (PG) behind Kalamandir within the Marathahalli Police Station limits.

While traveling in a bus an unidentified person stole the victim's mobile phone. The suspect confessed and revealed that he had eight stolen mobile phones. —BMB

'Assistance' at ATM turns out to be scam

A man involved in defrauding the public at Automated Teller Machines (ATM) was apprehended near Begur Lake recently after a complaint filed on July 22, by a resident of Bhantahalli, Malur.

The complainant said while attempting to withdraw money from an ATM, he had sought help from a stranger. The victim handed over his ATM card and PIN code to the stranger, who then swapped the card and pretended to withdraw money, but handed back a different card, claiming it was the victim's card.

The victim later discovered that Rs 61,500 had been withdrawn from his account on the same day. The Begur police station registered the case and conducted an investigation for months, gathering informa-

tion from various sources.

On July 23, police arrested a man loitering suspiciously near the ATM centres by Begur Lake, recovering 32 ATM cards and Rs 4,000 in cash from him. During interrogation, the suspect confessed to using defective ATM cards to deceive victims. The accused was produced before the court and remanded in judicial custody.

In a separate case, two individuals were arrested last week on Uttarahalli Main Road for defrauding the public by pretending to assist them.

According to the complaint, the victim had deposited Rs 1,50,000 in an account at Canara Bank on Uttarahalli Main Road. While attempting to change his PIN at a nearby ATM, he sought help from two unknown persons who

offered assistance. He handed them his ATM card and provided them with his PIN code. The two individuals then entered the ATM, changed the PIN, and swapped his ATM card with another one.

The victim approached the Canara Bank officials, who discovered that Rs 75,000 had been withdrawn from his account at a State Bank of India Bank ATM. The bank officials then temporarily froze his account to prevent further unauthorised transactions.

On July 29, 2024, the police arrested the two suspects who hail from Bihar near the Canara Bank ATM. The police recovered a total of 37 ATM cards from different banks, including the complainant's card, and Rs 7,500 in cash from the suspects' possession.

—Sanjana CS

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Inspection completed, but lights not yet on

After BM's reports, officials take a look at Annaswamy Mudaliar Road's plight, but solution is yet to come; BBMP official promises solution in two days

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

On Monday morning, officials were busy at work at Annaswamy Mudaliar Road. On the day Bangalore Mirror reported about most of the streetlights in the Smart City developed road being defunct, the officials were here to examine what had gone wrong. Needless to say, the residents of the area were thrilled. However, it looks like they have to wait a bit more for the street lights to come on.

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled 'Darkness rises: All lights off on Smart City's road' on August 5, narrating how the residents and pedestrians are struggling to walk on the footpaths of the area and how miscreants are ruling the roost in the absence of street lights at night.

The workers were at the spot to inspect the street lights and electric cables in the said area. The residents, who have been suffering a lot due to lack of the street lights, were delighted to see the BBMP employees inspecting the street lights and electric cables. They expected the BBMP authorities to ensure all the street lights worked by nightfall, but they were disappointed to see no improvement. "I saw a few people inspecting the street lights on Monday morning but nothing has been done to make those street lights function. The illumination on Annaswamy Mudaliar Road is very poor. I urge the authorities to fix this problem without any delay," said K Dhakshayani Kumar, a resident. According to residents and reliable sources, the quality of electric cables used for the street lights is allegedly sub-standard thus resulting



(Above): A person inspecting the electrical junction box on Annaswamy Mudaliar Road on Monday morning; (Below): The condition of Annaswamy Mudaliar Road on Monday night

in the burning of the cables often. "If the quality of the cables is an issue, it has to be fixed immediately to avoid inconvenience for the residents and pedestrians in the future. I do not know why the BBMP authorities wait until someone lodges a complaint. It is their duty and responsibility to inspect the street lights once a week," said Kaushhi Chinnappa, a resident.

Criticising the BBMP authorities for not directing the contractor responsible for the maintenance of street lights, V Purushotham, a resident, said the BBMP authorities are known for giving false assurances and being apathetic towards their responsibilities. "It has become a habit for the BBMP authorities to shift the blame on others when we ask them to attend to a problem. The quality

of the materials used while upgrading Annaswamy Mudaliar Road is not up to the mark. The BBMP Executive Engineer has to direct the contractor to maintain the street lights properly," said Purushotham.

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Projects) Geetha said that she has already directed the workers, who are assigned to the maintenance of the street lights on Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, to prepare a list of materials needed to make the defunct street lights function. "I am attending to this problem. I will fix this problem within two days," said the executive engineer.

The residents and pedestrians will need to wait to see if proper illumination is restored on Annaswamy Mudaliar Road.



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Manhole issue

Pulikeshi Nagar



Stagnant water near the manhole on Coles Road, Fraser Town, Pulikeshi Nagar, needs to be addressed promptly.

Spelling error

Vasanth Nagar



The spelling of Crescent Road in Ward 93, Vasanth Nagar, is incorrectly listed as "Crescent."

Electric bus catches fire; passengers safely evacuated

BMTC bus en route to Goraguntepalya erupts in flames near Hebbal BWSSB office after breaking down in heavy rain; fire officials quickly extinguish blaze

On the night of August 5, 2024, an electric bus operated by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) caught fire near the Hebbal Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) office amid heavy rain and traffic chaos in the city. The bus, with registration number KA 41 D 2679, was travelling from Tin Factory to Goraguntepalya when it broke down and



BMTC electric bus caught fire on Monday night

quickly caught fire.

The incident unfolded when

heavy flooding on the city's roads caused a bus to come to a standstill.

Despite multiple attempts by the driver, Dasharath, to restart the engine, the bus remained inoperative. Passengers were promptly asked to disembark, and arrangements were made to transfer them to another bus. Just minutes after the evacuation, smoke began to emanate from the stalled bus. Both the driver and the conductor, Narasimha Raju, managed to exit the vehicle safely before it eventually caught fire.

The fire ignited around 11 pm near Kempapura on the Outer Ring Road. Fire safety officials were swiftly alerted and arrived at the scene to tackle the blaze. Their prompt action successfully extinguished the flames. Fortunately, no passengers sustained injuries, as they had already been evacuated before the fire erupted.

— BMB

Abandoned vehicle

Basaveshwar Nagar



A vehicle has been parked unattended for the past three months at 743, 10th Main Road, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwar Nagar.

High Court dismisses 'premature PIL' on Karnataka employment bill

The Karnataka High Court recently dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) that challenged the constitutional validity of a draft bill approved by the State cabinet.

The draft bill in question, Karnataka State Employment Of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishment Bill, 2024 aimed to provide 50% reservation in management and 70% in non-management posts for Kannadigas in private industries and other organisations within the state.

Soon after it was approved, the bill turned into a controversy, drawing varying opinions from stakeholders. The petition, filed by Dr Amirthalakshmi R, sought the withdrawal of the bill until the constitutional challenges were resolved and a stay on its implementation.



The petitioner relied on a judgement by the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which had declared that 75% domicile reservation for locals in Haryana in the private sector jobs having a monthly salary of less than

Rs 30,000 was 'unconstitutional'.

However, the Karnataka High Court distinguished the present case from the aforementioned judgement, stating, "In that case, the legislative enactment was challenged before

HC dismisses petition challenging draft bill for local candidate reservations; bill seeking substantial Kannadiga reservations, is on hold for further review

Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The present challenge is to a bill and it has not assumed the character of law. The petition is thoroughly premature."

The court dismissed the petition without going into the merits of the case and without expressing anything on the aspect of merits. The government advocate pointed out that the petitioner, a Chartered Accountant and regional mentor of change with NITI Aayog, had a personal interest in the matter, as her chances of resum-

ing employment would be hindered by the impugned Bill.

Initially, the court imposed a cost of Rs 5,000 on the petitioner but later withdrew the imposition when the counsel submitted that the petitioner was a pregnant woman and no element of personal interest was made out in the petition.

On July 17, the government temporarily put the Karnataka State Employment Of Local Candidates in the Industries, Factories and Other Establishment Bill, 2024, on hold after facing criticism from various quarters.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah clarified that the bill, which was earlier said to have been approved, was still in the preparation stage and would be finalised only after comprehensive discussions, despite the State Cabinet has already approved the bill.

BM Education

Nearly after 53 years, our alumni Dr Krishna Chivukula, has come to give Rs 228 crore as an endowment to IIT-Madras. This is one among the single largest endowments that has been received by IIT Madras in its history — Institute Director V Kamakoti

UGC relaxes rules for central uni admissions

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently announced that central universities can conduct their entrance exams or admit students based on marks in the qualifying exam for undergraduate and postgraduate courses if seats remain vacant after admissions through the Common University Entrance Test (CUET).

However, the UGC clarified that CUET scores will still be the primary criteria for admitting students. UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar stated, "It has come to the notice of the UGC that seats remain vacant in some of the central universities even after three or four rounds of counselling. To keep the seats vacant for an entire academic year is a waste of resources and results in denial of quality higher education to many students who aspire to pursue higher studies in central universities."

To facilitate central universities in filling up their vacant seats, the UGC has formulated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Students who appeared in CUET, regardless of whether they applied to the respective university for the courses or programmes earlier, may also be considered. The commission has recommended that universities relax the domain subject-specific criteria for admission to a particular course.

In case seats remain vacant even after exhausting the list of CUET applicants, universities may consider conducting their entrance examination or the



concerned department may conduct a screening test. Alternatively, universities may admit students based on marks obtained in the qualifying examination. The entire admission process must be based on merit and transparency, and the reservation roster shall apply for admission to courses/programmes in all cases.

The UGC has also instructed universities to ensure that the entire admission process is completed on time to prevent any academic loss for students.

Promotion of Telecom and ICT

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the National Communications Academy (NCA) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote technical education in the areas of Telecom and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

in India, according to a press release.

The agreement was signed by Prof. Rajive Kumar, Member Secretary of AICTE, and Deb Kumar Chakrabarti, Director General of NCA, in the presence of Prof. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE, recently. The partnership aims to update the model curriculum for Diploma and Undergraduate courses and introduce minor degree courses in emerging fields such as 5G/6G, Quantum Communications, Telecom, and Cyber Security, aligning educational programs with the latest developments in the telecom industry.

Prof. TG Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE, added, "We are excited about this strategic partnership, which aims to revolutionise technical education in the telecom and ICT fields. Our goal is to prepare our students to meet the current and future demands of the industry."



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Environmental expertise Vs 'political favouritism'

Recent appointees lack expertise: Environment group writes to Governor to revoke appointments made with 'political' favour

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Raising concerns regarding the recently constituted Karnataka State Board of Wildlife (SBWL), the National Environment Care Federation has written to the Governor of Karnataka and urged him to revoke recent appointments to the board and initiate a new selection process to include individuals with expertise and a proven track record in wildlife conservation. "The government has nominated the sons and daughters of ministers, MLAs, and party workers who are neither experts nor conservationists. Among the appointees are a general surgeon and an orthodontist, raising questions about the criteria for these appointments. It reflects poorly on the government's commitment to addressing ecological issues and conserving wildlife and forests in Karnataka," said a member of the National Environment Care Federation.

Concerns regarding the credibility of the appointment of SBWL members have been raised by experts since the board was constituted last month. The members are appointed by the government under the provisions of WLPA and guidelines prescribed by the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife Rules, 2006. The Board advises the government in the selection and management of areas to be declared protected areas, in the



'Many of the nominees lack the capability to comprehend the implications of actions such as the construction of dams in forest areas and other crucial aspects of wildlife and their conservation'

formulation of the policy of protection and conservation of wildlife and specified plants, and in measures to be taken for harmonising the needs of the tribal and other dwellers of the forest with the protection and conservation of wildlife.

As per the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), 1972, which was amended in 2022, SWLB consists of the Chief Minister as chairperson, the Environment and Forest Minister as vice chairperson, three members of the state legislature, three persons representing non-government organisations dealing with wildlife, and ten eminent conservationists, ecologists, and environmentalists to be nominated by the state government, apart from others.

"The newly appointed members will not be able to grasp the implications of the destruction of forest areas and would prioritise easy clearance over conservation. The arbitrary nature of these appointments suggests that the government has succumbed to vested interests and is

“The arbitrary nature of these appointments suggests that the government has succumbed to vested interests – Letter to Governor

aiming to push through destructive projects at the cost of conservation. This approach undermines the integrity of the board," said the written complaint to the Governor.

City-based conservationists have also raised similar worries. They opine that many of the nominees lack the capability to comprehend the implications of actions such as the construction of dams in reserve forest areas, man-animal conflicts, and other crucial aspects of wildlife and their conservation. "None of these ten nominees appointed were recommended by the chief wildlife warden of the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD). They lack expertise

and have no background in conservation. Moreover, they have been appointed based on political considerations. How can we expect them to speak against an ecologically ill-conceived project proposed by the government in the future?" questioned a city-based conservationist.

According to a reliable source from KFD, although a list of applicants was sent to the government, there were no recommendations made. "The department forwarded all the applications that it received for the ten posts. There was no analysis conducted on the applications, and thus no recommendations were made. The department doesn't need to send a list of recommended members to be appointed as eminent ecologists and conservationists on SBWL. It is entirely the government's call. Having said that, the department is not aware of conservation-related work done by the nominees before being appointed as SBWL members," said the source.

Growing green, breathing clean



Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khnadre launched a campaign on Tuesday for 30,000 bamboo saplings in Bengaluru. The Minister said the initiative is launched to offset high vehicular emissions in urban areas. The Bamboo4Bangaluru campaign has been launched in collaboration with The Green School Bangalore, Indian Bamboo Institute, and Karnataka Forest Department. "Bamboo is a versatile plant and has been a part of human life since ancient times. It is a pleasure to see school children of Bangalore participating in this initiative," said the Minister, who also launched the Bamboo4Bangaluru website. The site will provide information and will also allow registration of bamboo saplings that will be planted across the city. — BMB

Gruha Lakshmi allowance resumed

The beneficiaries of the Gruha Lakshmi guarantee scheme would start receiving the money from Tuesday, said Karnataka Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar.

Addressing a public gathering at Mandya during the Congress' show of strength against the opposition BJP-JD(S) march against the MUDA alternative site scam, Hebbalkar said some women had complained to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah that they were not getting the money for the past two months. "Due to some technical glitch, we could not transfer money into the bank accounts of women for the months of June and July. It will happen from today (Tuesday)," Hebbalkar told the cheering crowd. She said the Congress party fulfils the promises it made. — PTI

No update for KG Layout site allottees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

application submitted on July 16 is quite incongruous. "We found no update after April on the developmental works at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. The BDA Executive Engineer advised the president of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum to visit the BDA website for information. The website has no information on the progress of developmental works for May, June, and July. What does it mean? Does it mean the BDA did nothing in the last three months?" asks Surya Kiran, spokesperson of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum.

Ashok M, general secretary of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum said the BDA engineers have failed to ensure quality in the work too. "The RTI application sought information available with the BDA but the authorities want the

applicants to find the information on the BDA website. The BDA authorities must be transparent on the developmental works taken up," he said.

Objections

Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar wrote a letter to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on August 1, 2024, highlighting the problems of people who bought residential sites at Banashankari 6th Phase. Suresh Kumar said that around 1,500 site owners are not able to construct their dream homes due to objections from the forest department. "This problem has been pending for the last 20 years. Around 5,000 site owners are not able to construct houses at Arkavathy Layout, Visvesvaraya Layout, Anjanapura Layout, and Banashankari 6th Phase due to some problems," the letter read. He appealed to the Deputy Chief Minister to solve the problems of site owners on a priority basis.

No grounds for bail to 'Revanna Republic'

The state strongly opposed the bail applications filed by the accused in the case involving the kidnapping and alleged sexual assault of a woman by former Janata Dal-Secular MP Prajwal Revanna on Monday. Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) and Senior Counsel Professor Ravivarma Kumar argued that the accused were all members of the "Revanna Republic," implying that they were connected by blood, marriage, or party affiliation. "The victim is the only one who falls outside of the clan of the Revanna Republic. All others are related by blood, marriage, or party affiliation."

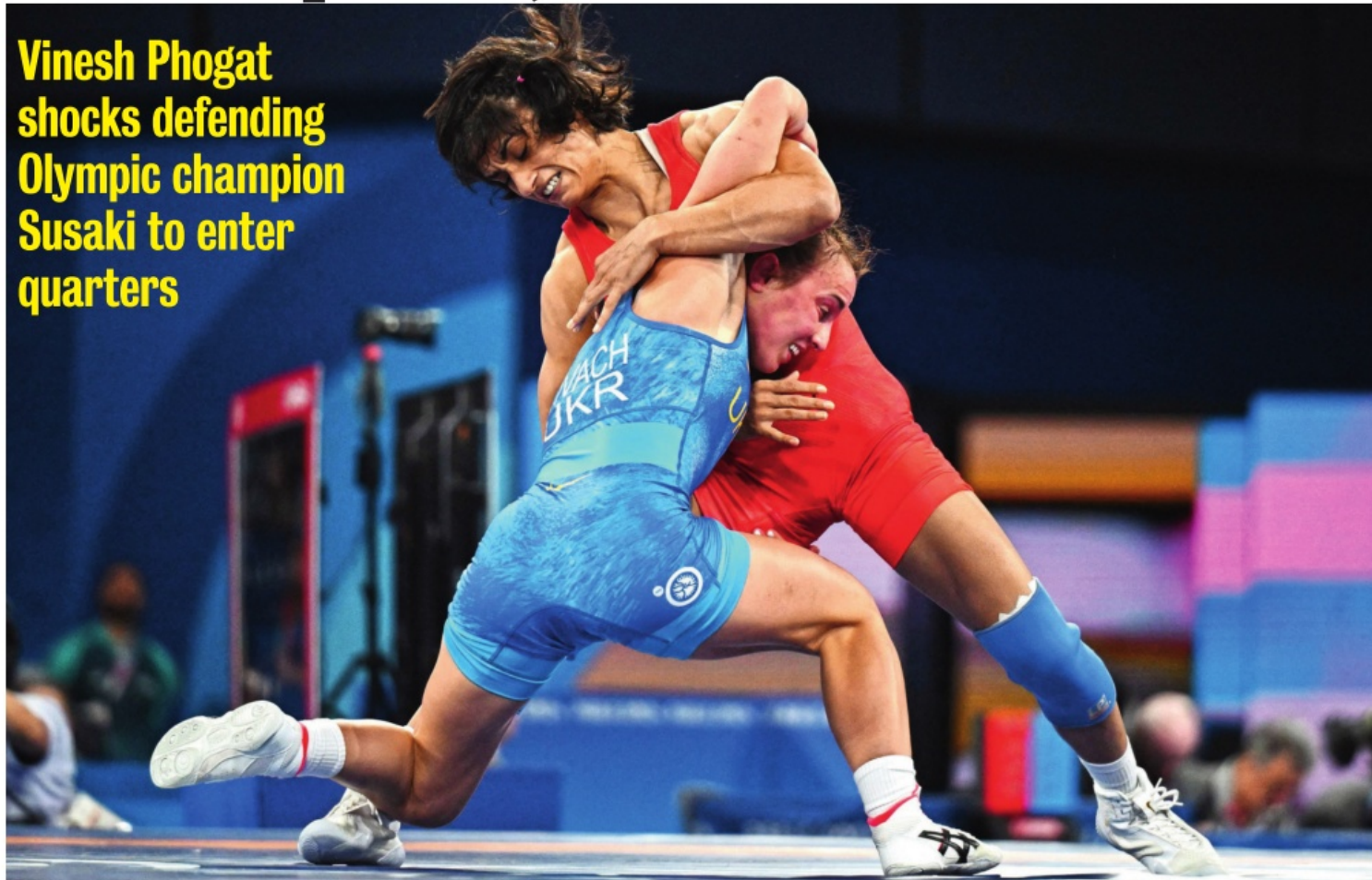
Kumar presented his arguments before single-judge Justice M Nagaprasanna, who was presiding over a group of petitions submitted by six individuals accused in the case. The SPP asserted that the case had been rigorously investigated, with sufficient evidence against the accused, and that there were no grounds for granting bail. He also mentioned that in his 40 years as a lawyer, he had never encountered a crime of this nature, prompting the state government to establish a Special

Investigation Team (SIT).

The accused individuals, namely Sathish Babanna, HK Sujay, HN Madhu, HD Manu Gowda, ST Keerthi, and KA Rajagopal, approached the High Court following the rejection of their bail applications by a special court in June of this year. The state maintained that this was "not a fit case for grant of bail" and said the fact that all the accused absconded immediately after the arrest of accused 2, despite their names not being mentioned in the FIR. SPP Kumar argued that this behaviour indicated suspicious activity and that the accused had been thoroughly investigated, leaving no loose ends. The SIT has already submitted a charge sheet in the case, a copy of which was presented to the HC. Justice Nagaprasanna acknowledged having reviewed the charge sheet and remarked that even in the strongest cases of cybercrime, chargesheets are not drawn with such clarity before reserving orders. The case also involves charges against Prajwal Revanna's father, HD Revanna, mother, Bhavani Revanna, and six associates of the family. — BMB

Redemption, one bout at a time

Vinesh Phogat shocks defending Olympic champion Susaki to enter quarters



As she along with Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik led the protests against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the ousted president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), Vinesh Phogat has become one of the most hated sportspersons in the country, facing online abuse daily from a section of the netizens.

She was vilified when she raised her voice against some of the moves by the WFI, and she was abused when she came down from 53 kg weight class to 50 kg and participated in two weight categories in the trials seeking guarantees from WFI officials. With the tacit support of the administrators, Vinesh was painted as a villain who was trying to gain

favours and a backdoor entry into the team.

Even her own cousins had turned against Vinesh as a section of the media and netizens went after the two-time Olympian, depicting her as a spent force who is always depending on her past achievements.

On Tuesday, the 29-year-old grappler from Haryana silenced her critics and abusers with two brilliant performances that took her into the semi-finals of the women's 50kg weight class at the Paris Olympic Games.

Vinesh first upset World No.1 Yui Susaki of Japan in the pre-quarterfinal and got the better of Ukraine's Oksana Vasylyivna Livach 7-5 in the last-eight stage to storm into the semifinals.

The former World No.1 in 48kg weight made a stunning debut in the 50kg class in the Olympics with a shocking win against four-time World Champion and Tokyo Olympic Games bronze medallist Yui Susaki of Japan.

Playing against the undisputed queen in 50 kg, Vinesh defended strongly, not allowing the Japanese grappler a chance to attack and effect a take-down. She was twice penalised a point each for passivity but did not lose her cool. She launched a lightning-fast attack in the last 20 seconds and made a take-down to gain three points and win the bout.

An hour later, Vinesh quelled the challenge of Ukraine's Oksana Vasylyivna Livach 7-5 in her second

bout of the day.

Vinesh took an initial lead of 2-0 in the first period of the match against Oksana, who won her first bout 10-0 on technical superiority. The second period was a bit challenging for Vinesh as Oksana fought back and took a 2-pointer after the Indian grappler had stretched her lead to 4-0 with two minutes and two seconds remaining in the match.

Vinesh recovered quickly to counter and got one more point to her name to take the lead 5-2. In the last few seconds of the bout, the Ukrainian attacked fiercely but Vinesh managed to hold on to her defence and counter-attacked to get a 2-pointer via technical superiority.

—IANS



HIGHLIGHTS

'Just the player's fault?' Ponnappa asks Padukone

Indian shuttler Ashwini Ponnappa criticised badminton legend Prakash Padukone over his remarks regarding "player responsibility" after Lakshya Sen missed out on a bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Ponnappa in her Instagram story, expressed her disappointment at what she perceived as an unfair allocation of blame towards players. She questioned why only players were being held accountable for failures, while coaches, who play a critical role in preparation and strategy, were not similarly scrutinised.

"Disappointing to see this," Ponnappa wrote in her Instagram story. "If a player wins, everyone jumps on the bandwagon to take credit, and if they lose, it's just the player's fault?! Why aren't coaches held responsible for lack of preparation and getting the player ready? They are the first ones to take credit for wins; why not take responsibility for their players' losses as well?"

She also argued that both victories and defeats should be seen as the result of a collective team effort, including players, coaches, and support staff.

"At the end of the day, winning takes a team effort and losing is also the team's responsibility. You can't suddenly push the player under the bus and blame it all on the player," she added.

Padukone's comments followed Sen's defeat in the bronze medal match against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, which marked a painful end to India's badminton medal hopes at the Olympics. Addressing the press, Padukone stated, "After Milkha Singh in 1964 and PT Usha in the 80s, we have seen so many fourth-place finishes. I think it's high time that players also take responsibility... Ultimately, the responsibility is on the players to deliver when it matters the most," he emphasised that the federations and government had done their part, suggesting that the onus was on the athletes to perform. —IANS

Chopra reaches final with mega throw of 89.34m



Neeraj Chopra in action at the Stade de France on Tuesday

Defending Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra reached the final of the men's javelin throw event with a mighty throw of 89.34m in the first attempt of the Group B qualification in the Paris Olympics here at the Stade de France on Tuesday.

Neeraj, who won India's individual gold medal in first track and field at the Olympics in Tokyo, started his title defence in style after breaching the automatic qualification mark of 84m in his opening throw by a huge margin.

It was also his best throw of the season and also the biggest among the players who achieved automatic qualification for the final across groups.

However, Neeraj, the reigning World and Asian Games champion, is

yet to surpass the career-best throw of 89.94m achieved at the Stockholm Diamond League in Sweden on June 30, 2022.

In Group A, India's Kishore Kumar Jena, however, failed to reach the final

It was his best throw of the season and also biggest among players who got automatic qualification for final

after notching the best effort of 80.73m which came in his first attempt. The second throw was a foul before he threw 80.21m in the third attempt.

In Group B, Grenada's Anderson Peters and Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem also progressed to the final after

throwing above the 84m mark. Both athletes achieved the feat in their opening attempts.

Peters threw 88.63m while Nadeem's effort finished third in the group with 86.59m throw, thus finishing behind Chopra.

Earlier in Group A qualification, Kenya's Julius Yego and Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch heaved throws of 85.97m and 85.63m respectively, which earned them automatic qualification for the final. Germany's Julian Weber also qualified with a throw of 87.76m.

Neeraj, the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist, will aim to become the first Indian athlete to clinch two individual gold medals in the Olympics on Thursday (August 8).

—IANS

Inappropriate methods of trend analysis deployed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

director, research and advocacy, CSE. Ground-level ozone is not directly emitted from any source. It is produced from a complex interaction between gaseous compounds emitted from vehicles, power plants, factories, and other combustion sources. These compounds undergo cyclic reactions in the presence of sunlight to generate ground-level ozone.

Inadequate monitoring

The report also highlights that inadequate monitoring, limited data, and inappropriate methods of trend analysis have weakened the understanding of this growing public health hazard. The complex chemistry of ground-level ozone makes it a difficult pollutant to track and mitigate.

"This finding has significant implications for the National Clean Air

Programme (NCAP) that is currently focusing more on controlling PM10 or coarse dust. India must immediately refine the action strategy for combined control of particulate pollution, ozone, and its precursor gases like NOx to maximize the co-benefits of the action plan. We need stringent control of precursor gases from vehicles, industry, cooking on solid fuels, open burning, and other combustion sources while reducing PM2.5," said Roychowdhury.

The report also highlights the need to develop a robust public information and dissemination system to alert the public about high levels of ozone in areas where ozone build-up is happening.

India Scenario

Apart from Bengaluru, other metropolitan areas that were studied and registered an increase in ground-level ozone included Chennai Metropolitan Area, Delhi-NCR, Greater Ahmedabad,



Greater Hyderabad, Greater Jaipur, Kolkata Metropolitan Area, Greater Lucknow, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, and Pune Metropolitan Region. Ground-level ozone exceedance has been reported

in all 10 metropolitan areas, with Delhi being the most affected. This year, so far, Delhi-NCR has recorded 176 days of exceedances during the study period. Mumbai-MMR and Pune are at the second spot with 138 days of excess each. Jaipur recorded an excess of 126 days; Hyderabad, on 86 days; Kolkata-KMA on 63 days; Lucknow on 49 days; and Ahmedabad on 41 days. The least number of excess days (9) was recorded in Chennai.

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I, Aparna Devendraswamy D/O Devendraswamy, R/o Vaishnavi ARS Gardenia, Jalahalli Cross, Bangalore, have changed my minor son name from Ankith Manohar Thummala to Ankith Manohar for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01.07.2024 sworn to before Anitha Bai Advocate and Notary, Bangalore.

I Abrar Ahmed Abdul Razack S/o Abdul Razack R/o Old No-34 New No-23/1,1st Floor, Dispensary Road Kalasipalyam B'lore-560002 have changed my name to Abrar Ahmed.

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I, Aparna Devendraswamy D/O Devendraswamy, R/o Vaishnavi ARS Gardenia, Jalahalli Cross, Bangalore, have changed my minor daughter name from Ishitha Manohar Thummala to Ishitha Manohar for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01.07.2024 sworn to before Anitha Bai Advocate and Notary, Bangalore.

I, Prasanna M P S/o, Puttasiddaiah R/o No 5 Siddeswara Nilaya 2nd Floor Cybele Green Park 4th Phase Krishnaraja Puram Bangalore 560036 have changed my name to Prasanna Gowda M P for all purposes.

I, Shivamma Shivaramaiah R/a No.76B/15, 2nd A Cross, 3rd Main Road, Nagendra Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560050. Changed my name to **SHIVAMMA THIMMAMASANDRA KEMPARAMAIAH**. Vide Affidavit Date: 6.8.2024. Sworn Before Notary: Devaraja E.

I, VYBHAV VIJAYARAJ S/o Sowmya Raghunandan R/at No.484, 3rd B Cross, 2nd Block, 3rd Phase, BSK, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru- 560085 have changed my name to **VYBHAV RAGHUNANDAN** vide affidavit dated: 6/8/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhar Bangalore.

I Sajal Abhay Kumar Jain S/O, Abhay Kumar Jain R/o Flat 13222, Building 1 Tower 3, Prestige Jindal City, Tumkur Main Road, 7th Cross, Manjunatha Nagar, Bagalakunte, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560073 have changed my name to Sajal Jain.

I, Nithya Varghese .C W/o Justine Jes Thomas, R/at #1814, Ground Floor, 24th Main, 25th Cross, HSR Layout Sector-2, Bengaluru-560102 have changed my name to Nithya Varghese, vide affidavit dated 05.06.2024 before notary S.I Balaguru, Bangalore.

I, Niveditha Halappa R/a Mithi Halenahalli BM Layout, Jyothinagar, Chikkamagaluru-577101. Changed my Name To **NIVEDITHA KADIDAL HALAPPA**. Vide Affidavit Date: 06-08-2024. Sworn Before Notary: Devaraja E.

I, Rahman Sibgathulla Khan S/o Abdul Rehman Khan R/o #1, 5th Cross lalbagh Fort Road Doddamavallr B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Sibgathulla Khan.

I Kunnampilly Muralidharan Menon S/O, Sankunni Menon R/o #263, 2nd Cross 7th Block, Koramangala Bangalore - 560095 have changed my name to Muralidhara Menon.

I, Zaara Matheen R/a No. 2426, 3rd Cross, HAL 3rd Stage, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017. Changed my name To **VANDANA NARULA**. Vide Affidavit Date:6-8-2024. Sworn before Notary: Devaraja. E.

I, Parikshit Siddharth Shah R/o 305 Saket Paradise Owners Court Junasandra , Bangalore 560035, Karnataka , India have changed my minor daughter's name from Arianna to Arianna Parikshit Shah .

I, Shivakumar Ramaiah R/o No.156/24, 1st cross, Kothanur main road, Harinagar, Bengaluru 560062 have changed my name to Shiva Kumar Affidavit Dt.06/08/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Adithees Sampigethaya D/o Shreesha K S R/o 37 Gokula 3rd A Cross 5th Block 2nd Stage Nagarbhavi Blore 72 have changed my name to Adithees Karandoor Sampigethaya for all purposes

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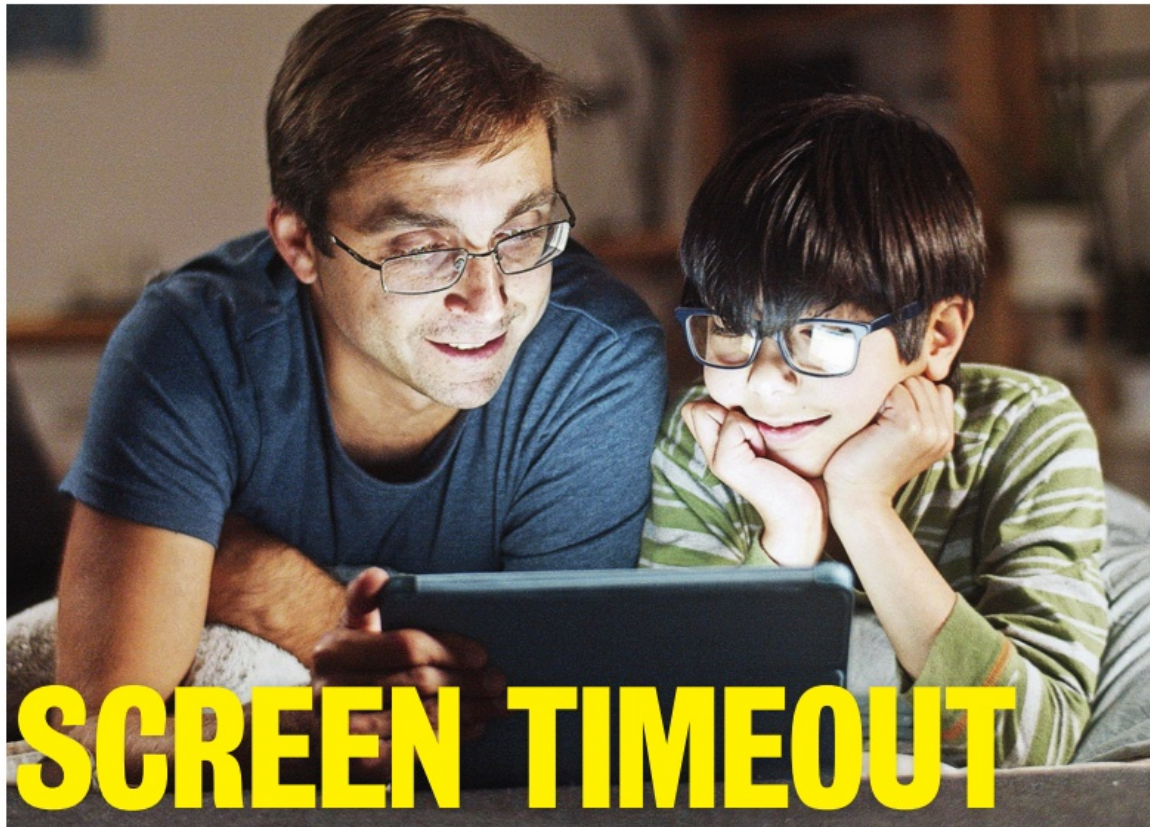
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SCREEN TIMEOUT

4 ways to help your child use screens well

Screen time is one of the top worries for Australian parents. In a national February 2021 poll by the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, parents rated it as the number-one health issue facing their children.

Our previous research also shows parents feel guilty about screens, even though they are all around us.

At the same time, guidance on what parents should be doing is confusing. According to the World Health Organisation and the Australian government, young children's screen time should be limited to no more than one hour per day for two- to five-year-olds, while children under two shouldn't be exposed to screens at all.

But the UK Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has said it is "impossible to give comprehensive national guidance or limits" because the effect of screens depends so much

on context and the evidence is uncertain.

This made us wonder what else matters for children's healthy development beyond "screen time". So we gathered all available evidence on the context in which children use screens.

Our research

In our new research, published in JAMA Pediatrics, we reviewed 100 studies on the influence of screen use contexts on the cognitive (brain), social and emotional development in children from birth to five years. The screens included TV, computer games, smartphones and tablets.

These studies, published between 1978 and 2023, involved more than 176,000 children and their families from 30 countries. This included the United States, United Kingdom, China, Canada, Japan and Australia.

From this, we distilled four research-based ways parents can help their children use screens in healthy ways.

1 Make screen time together time

The studies we analysed show

that if children and caregivers use screens together (also called co-viewing or co-use), it is beneficial for children's thinking and reasoning skills. It is especially beneficial for their language development, including the number of words children know, their social communication skills, language understanding and processing.

When you watch together you can have conversations about what children are seeing or doing, help them understand the content (for example, "Why did Bluey hide that from Chilli?") and draw connections to the real world ("How do you think Bingo is feeling right now?"). This can help their language development and learning.

2 Choose age-appropriate content that encourages play

Not all screen time is "bad" but we should consider the content and how it might influence a child's development and behaviour.

Our research found a link between children watching age-inappropriate content and poor social skills and behaviour.

This highlights the importance of purposeful and high-quality screen experiences for children. Parents might ask themselves, what age or developmental stage is the content designed for and does it promote learning and development (for example, Sesame Street)?

Does it stimulate imaginative play and creativity in the real world (such as Playschool)? Does the content have positive social messages (Bluey)? Does it encourage movement like dancing to music (Ready, Steady, Wiggle)?

Avoiding violent content and content for mature audiences is key, and parents can use trustworthy guides like those from Common Sense Media if they have any doubts.

3 Don't let screens get in the way of parent-child interactions

Mobile technologies mean children can use screens almost anywhere and anytime. The same is also true for parents.

Sometimes parents' screens can interfere with conversations and connections between them and their child. In our study, children had better social skills, behaviour and ability to regulate their emotions when parents avoided screen use during interactions and routines like family meals.

When parents are distracted, it can affect the quality and quantity of interactions with their child.

4 Don't have the TV on in the background

Children learn from their environments and background TV may divert a child's attention from play and learning. Our research found children had better thinking, reasoning and language abilities when there was less background TV in the home.

This can also be because of less conversations between parents and children when there is a TV on in the background.

So, when the TV is not actively being watched, consider turning it off so children can play, listen and learn.

(By Sumudu Mallawaarachchi and Dylan Cliff, University of Wollongong, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Fruits & veggies for BP

Good diet

Fruits and vegetables have become a crucial part of hypertension treatment, new research said on Tuesday. Diets high in these foods have been shown to lower blood pressure, reduce cardiovascular risk, and improve kidney health due to their base-producing effects. A new study in The American Journal of Medicine, presents findings from a five-year interventional randomized control trial.

All-round health food

Despite efforts to improve hypertension treatment with pharmacological strategies, hypertension-related chronic kidney disease and cardiovascular mortality are rising. Heart disease remains the leading cause of death for patients with chronic kidney disease.

The Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet, rich in fruits and vegetables, is recommended as the first-line treatment for primary hypertension. However, it is often under-prescribed and under-implemented.

Diets high in fruits and vegetables are associated with lower blood pressure, reduced chronic kidney disease progression, and decreased cardiovascular disease risk and mortality.

Kidney and heart-healthy

"Our patient studies showed that an acid-producing diet (high in animal products) is harmful to kidneys, while a base-producing diet (high in fruits and vegetables) is beneficial. We hypothesised that fruits and vegetables are kidney- and heart-healthy because they reduce dietary acid," said Donald E Wesson from Dell Medical School, The University of Texas. The study involved hypertensive patients with macroalbuminuria -- a marker of chronic kidney disease and cardiovascular risk.

Results showed that both fruits and vegetables and NaHCO₃ improved kidney health, but only fruits and vegetables reduced blood pressure and cardiovascular disease risk. — IANS

MIRRORLIGHTS

Female patients less likely to get pain medication: Study

Female patients are consistently less likely to receive pain medication prescriptions compared to male patients with similar complaints, a new study reveals.

The study, led by Professor Shoham Choshen-Hillel and Mika Guzikovits from the Hebrew University, has uncovered a concerning sex bias in pain management decisions at emergency rooms.

The research showed that female patients are prescribed fewer pain relief medications than male patients, even after considering variables such as pain levels, age, medical history, and com-

plaint type.

This suggests a systemic issue where women's pain is not taken as seriously or treated as aggressively as men's pain.

By analysing electronic health records from American and Israeli healthcare systems, the researchers found that female patients discharged from the emergency department are less likely to receive treatment for pain complaints compared to male patients.

Specifically, datasets from emergency departments with discharge notes, revealed that

female patients are less likely to receive a prescription for any type of analgesic medication, including opioids and non-opioids, compared to male patients.

Female patients with pain complaints are less likely to receive analgesics for every pain score and age group and receive fewer analgesics from both male and female physicians.

Additionally, female patients stay an additional 30 minutes at the emergency department, and their pain score is 10 per cent less likely to be recorded by triage nurses.

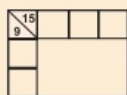
In a controlled experiment involving 109 nurses, pain was rated as less intense if the patient was said to be female rather than male, suggesting that the bias is driven by gender stereotypes.

"Our research reveals a troubling bias in how women's pain is perceived and treated in emergency care settings," said Prof. Choshen-Hillel.

"This under-treatment of female patients' pain could have serious implications for women's health outcomes, potentially leading to longer recovery times, complications, or chronic pain conditions." — IANS

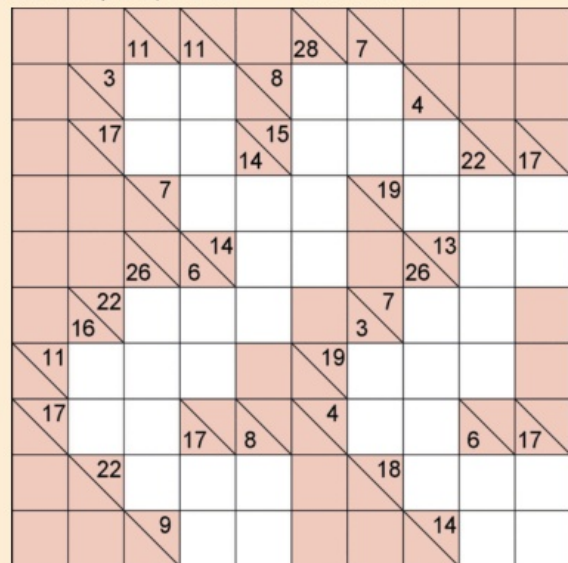
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

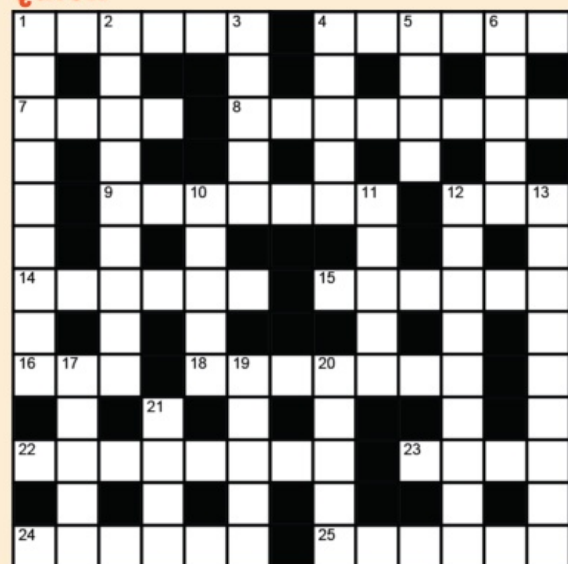


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Overseas (6)
- 4 Long ditch (6)
- 7 Make a sweater (4)
- 8 Arabic ____ : 1,2,3, etc.? (8)
- 9 They confront the bowlers (7)
- 12 Come to a bad ____ : meet with ruin or disgrace? (3)
- 14 Despot (6)
- 15 Catches sight of (6)
- 16 Poetic anger (3)
- 18 Stringed keyboard instrument (7)
- 22 Showing a profit or better off financially, in a way? (2,6)
- 23 Vomit or throw out (4)
- 24 Do a stevedore's job (6)
- 25 Maiden (6)

DOWN

- 1 River that crosses paths with the South Pennar river at Nandi Hills (9)
- 2 Pay back (9)
- 3 People of Denmark (5)
- 4 Valley near Mt Olympus (5)
- 5 Lawman Wyatt (4)
- 6 List preceder (5)
- 10 Invigorating drink (5)
- 11 Japanese-American (5)
- 12 Brief inscriptions or quotations at the beginning of a book (9)
- 13 Vehement denial (9)
- 17 A quarrel or a spat (3,2)
- 19 Preferred (5)
- 20 Went to the polls (5)
- 21 Rider's game (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS L
MTNP JWFD NFS, FAA CFZ
UTQDVGPI BDT CP MTGH-
VPQZ CS PGZVQFGMP.



Linemaro

Your eyes glow like twin suns



Mindchow

You don't know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have



Joke of the day

Time's Person of the Year is the health workers who treat Ebola. Time Magazine told the health workers, 'No need to pick up your award, we'll mail it to you'

Loop

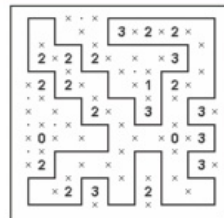
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

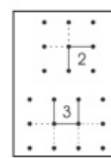
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

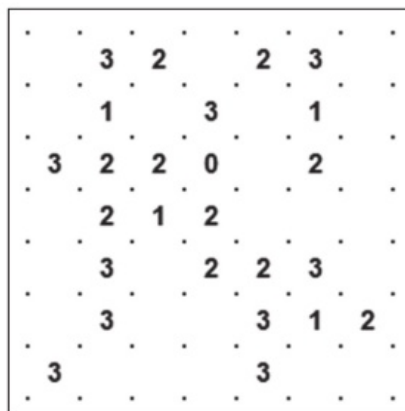
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



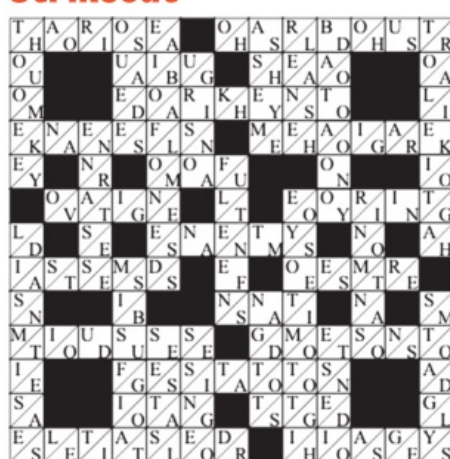
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



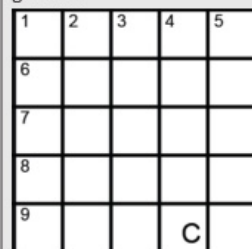
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 Boats; 6 A Zone;
- 7 Slit N; 8 In tin;
- 9 I cede (2-3)

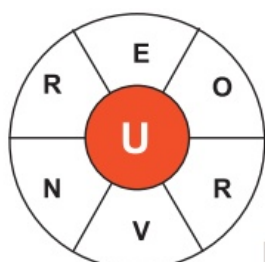
DOWN

- 1 Idols; 2 Al Zen;
- 3 In Ben; 4 Tonic;
- 5 Tates

Mensapuzzle

Here's a little baseball truth ... in alphabetic form.
Let U = 5; R = 9
T = 6; A = 8

NO
BAT
NO
+ RUNS
LOSER



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

2 3 8 8 = 1

Medium

2 2 4 5 = 4

Hard

3 3 8 3 = 30

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Blinds are lower. 2. Back of chair is straight. 3. Man's hair is different. 4. Necktie is missing. 5. Curtain is not as wide. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

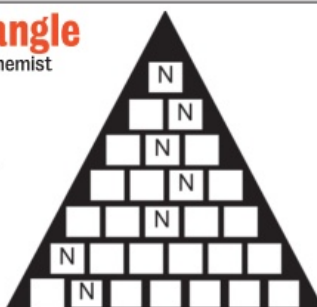
Riddler

Sam loves to communicate by using rebus puzzles. This is sometimes confusing for other residents of the university dormitory. One night, this sign was posted on Sam's door: NIOILTE FIRE. The other residents have no idea what Sam is up to. Do you?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Nitrogen for the chemist
- 2 target
- 3 Count starter
- 4 Completed
- 5 Martial art
- 6 Readied an arrow
- 7 Struck hard

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

Saree side



Actress Taapsee Pannu, who has two films lined up to release this month, has shared her newfound appreciation for sarees and how they have helped her discover a different side of her personality. Taapsee revealed that wearing sarees, which are a traditional part of Indian attire, has introduced her to a new aspect of herself.

The actress said: "I think I discovered a new side of my personality. When I embraced wearing sarees, and by sarees, I don't mean the ones that people generally wear on red carpets or special occasions or festivals. I'm talking about the daily wear sarees." Taapsee, who is currently in Paris enjoying the Summer Olympics, has been seen strolling around in her avant-garde sarees. The actress recently attended the hockey match between India and Great Britain.

Taapsee has collaborated with the fashion label Suta and is embracing the vibrant colours of France while donning stunning sarees.

The actress noted, "I realised a different side of my personality started showing when I wore these sarees. Over time, as I liked what I saw in the mirror, I became more and more comfortable wearing them."

— IANS

Pitfalls of falling in love

As its title suggests, the movie is about love. The movie revolves around a group of youths who want to remain single rather than fall in love and later undergo the pain of breakups. *Ishq - Don't fall in love* - narrates the problems of lovers. It is the maiden movie for Vinay Raghavendra as an independent director.

The specialty of the director is that he has ensured all actors are relaxed in front of the camera. All the actors have not done a good job and some of them need more training to prove their mettle in the film industry. The beautiful locations and greenery add value to the movie. The objective of the movie is to convey a message to young boys and girls on the importance of having dedication, understanding, and affection to select a life partner at the right time to lead married life. It also states that youths who want to fall in love due to attraction or to kill time will end up in not only wasting time but also spending hard-earned or borrowed money.

The movie is about Ram (Raju) and his friends Chethan (Chethan Durga), Seshu Devakumar (Srujan), and Batman (Shashank Raghavendra). They spend time visiting pubs and going on tours. Ram's parents insist he marry Ahalya (Shwetha Bhat), who works as a wedding planner. Ram tries to reject Ahalya for no reason. She asks him to drop her at a



ISHQ
3.0 RATING ★★★★★
• **DIRECTOR** Vinay Raghavendra
• **ACTORS** Raju, Shwetha Bhat, Chethan Durga, Shashank, Srujan, and Wilson
• **Duration** 130 minutes
• **Certification** U

marriage hall as a punishment for rejecting her. What happens to Ram and Ahalya is what the movie *Ishq* is all about.

Most of the actors are newcomers. They have to work harder to get there. Raju's gestures and dialogue delivery are okay. Shwetha Bhat's performance in the climax deserves appreciation. The drawback of the movie is the action scene that looks incongruous and it has too many dialogues. Lush surroundings of Sakaleshpur, Honnavar, Udipi and other locations are a visual treat.

It is a family entertainer.

—Y Maheswara Reddy



Shining star

Comparisons are being drawn between Rakesh Roshan and his son Rithik Roshan and our own director-cum-actor Indrajit Lankesh and his son. Some guests, who attended the trailer launch of the film *Gowri*, pointed to the similarities between Samarjit and Hritik.

Kichcha Sudeep described Indrajit Lankesh not only as a shining star of Sandalwood but also Rakesh Roshan of Kannada film industry. Sudeep was the chief guest



said Sudeep.

Thanking Sudeep for gracing the function, Indrajit recalled how Sudeep agreed to play a special character in the movie *Thuntata*. "I want to present a cricket bat brought from London to Sudeep for all his help," said Indrajit.

Shyam Sundar, a well-known criminal lawyer, appreciated Samarjit and wished him all the best.

Expressing gratitude to the guests, Samarjit said that he is lucky to have a father like Indrajit. "My father is a shining star of Sandalwood. I am indebted to my father and mother," said Samarjit.

TRANSFORMED

Mona Singh on the journey to her new look

Mona Singh who was last seen in 'Munjya' is doing some great work and leaving her fans surprised. From being the Jassi of 'Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahi' to projects like 'Made In Heaven' and 'Munjya' now, Mona has indeed come a long way. Not to mention, in recent times, Mona's physical transformation is hard to miss.

During a chat with ETimes, Mona told us, "This happened last year. My producers reached out to me for a role, for a series called 'Paan Parda Sarda'. They wanted me to lose weight and I said, 'bohot ho gaya'. Every new year's resolution had to be about losing weight. The resolution never saw the light of the day but this role motivated me and I started being mindful about what I eat."

She further added that she got motivated when she started seeing results. "The minute I started seeing results, I was like 'Wow, this is addictive'. Now let's just stick to it and wear the clothes I always wanted to and look the way I wanted to. It's the times when one needs to eat right and exercise to have clarity."

Mona further urges people to slow down and take care of their lifestyle.

"It's important, not just being an actor, but, the kind of lifestyle we have is terrible. Now we don't sleep at 9:30 pm. Especially in a city like Mumbai, everyone is restless and overworked, stressed. It's important to have time for yourself, have slower mornings, and meditate. It's very important and you approach every thing with ease which is important. It's good to slow down."

The 'Laal Singh Chaddha' actress says she's super proud of herself now because this is something she always wanted to achieve. "I always wanted to look a certain way but was not able to achieve that because of my laziness. You have to work hard, wake up on lazy mornings because your other side of the brain will tell you 'chhodo na, so jaate hai. I feel happy and proud of my achievement. It's not difficult to lose weight, but it's difficult to maintain it. But now, it's been a year since I've been able to maintain it."

Though she laughs, "I still get scared when we go on holidays as I would end up cheating on my diet. But my yoga teacher tells me to not overeat or overdo it, so that's what I follow."

—ETimes



Second attempt

Munikrishna, known for his performance in *Kode Muruga*, is all set to prove his acting skills with *Muruga S/o Kaanoonu*. Munikrishna plays the lead and has also bankrolled the movie.

"Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar was supposed to sing the title song of this movie. We are lucky to have our movie's title launched by him. The movie's shooting came to a grinding halt 10



days after going to floors. I decided to go ahead with the shooting since Puneeth Rajkumar had launched its title. I sold my house to bankroll this movie," said Munikrishna. The movie's trailer was released by SA Chinne Gowda, former president of Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, and leading lady of yesterday's Prema at SRV Theater.

Prema said she attended the function despite having a fever because of Munikrishna. "I congratulate Munikrishna for not only acting but also bankrolling the movie. I know he sold a house for this movie but I am confident he will buy three buildings in the near future," said Prema.

Director Vijay said that *Muruga S/o Kaanoonu* is his fifth movie. "It is an out and out comedy flick," he said.